

Message Text

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73

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAJ-01 NEA-10 OMB-01 NIC-01 DRC-01 /128 W

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R 031502Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8479

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD BY POUCH

USMISSION USUN

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GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US, XF

SUBJ: SOVIET PRESS ON SECRETARY'S ME TRIP

1. SOVIET CENTRAL PRESS OVER MAY DAY HOLIDAY CONTINUES TO TREAT SECRETARY'S CURRENT ME TRIP AS NON-EVENT. IZVESTIAY (APRIL 30), IN ONLY CENTRAL PRESS REPORT ON SECRETARY'S POST-GENEVA TRAVELS, ANNOUNCED HIS ARRIVAL IN ALGIERS AS FIRST STOP ON ME TRIP INCLUDING VISIT TO EGYPT, SYRIA, ISRAEL AND OTHER COUNTRIES.

2. IN ONLY ITEM ON SYRIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT, TASS STORY (PRAVDA, MAY 2) PLAYS BACK MENA REPORT CLAIMING U.S. HAS "PROPOSED ITS PLAN FOR DISENGAGEMENT OF SYRIAN AND ISRAELI FORCES." TASS ACCOUNT SAYS PLAN INCLUDES: ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM 525 SQUARE KILOMETERS OF TERRITORY SEIZED IN 1973 AND FROM 1600 SQ. KM. OCCUPIED IN 1967; MUTUAL REDUCTION OF FRONT LINE FORCES; CREATION OF A UNEF BUFFER ZONE; AND RETURN OF ISRAELI POW'S IN RETURN FOR RESETTLEMENT OF SYRIAN REFUGEES. STORY MAKES NO MENTION OF SECRETARY'S PRESENCE IN AREA.

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3. OTHER ME NEWS IS CONFINED TO BRIEF REPORTS ON GOLAN FIGHTING FEATURING SYRIAN CLAIMS OF ISRAELI LOSSES.

4. COMMENT: SOVIET REPORTING ON SECRETARY'S CURRENT ME TRIP HAS REACHED NEW LOW FOR COVERAGE OF U.S. EFFORTS IN ME. WHILE WE WOULD NOT EXPECT TRUMPETING OF U.S. ME ACTIVITIES, ALMOST TOTAL OMISSION OF REPORTS ON ME DEVELOPMENTS SUGGESTS THAT SOVIETS ARE HAVING SOME DIFFICULTY, IN LIGHT OF KISSINGER-GROMYKO COMMUNIQUE (PUBLISHED HERE APRIL 30), IN PRESENTING TO THE SOVIET PUBLIC THE CONTINUING SOLO EFFORTS BY THE U.S.

STOESSEL

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